

It's About YOUTH

Newsletter of the Utah State Youth Council on Workforce Services • July 2007

Department of Human Services Summer Internship Program

By MARIE CHRISTMAN

The Department of Human Services administrative office is starting a new internship program for ethnic minority high school students during the summer. This is the first year and is the brain-child of the Executive Director of Human Services, Lisa-Michele Church.

On June 4, six high school students from East High and one from West High in Salt Lake City begin what could be a career in the human services field. The students were selected by their high school counselors and the idea behind the program was to provide an opportunity for youth to be exposed to human services type work,

Continued on page 2



What's New:

- 2 Utah's Vision Team Moves Forward
- 4 Spotlight: Western Region
- 6 Region Updates
- 14 Youth Council Schedule
- 14 Contact Information



Chair's Message

Greetings! I hope this edition of the Just for YOUTH newsletter finds you all enjoying your summer to its fullest. I am pleased to have the Department of Human Services' high school internship program highlighted in this edition. While we are only into the second week of the internship, the youth participating are bringing a breath of fresh air into our administrative bodies. Through this program we are pleased to be able to provide an opportunity to a limited number of youth to learn about potential careers they might not have thought of and to obtain specific job skills. We also are excited for the opportunity for us to learn from the youth.

You will also find the spotlight region for this edition is Central region as well as many other interesting articles on what youth are up to. Enjoy!

Marie Christman

Continued from page 1

learn about the Department and its functions and learn soft and hard work skills. The interns are assigned to the various program areas within the department which provides a wide variety of types of people. Agencies participating are the Office of Public Guardian who primarily work with elderly. The interns are assigned to the various areas within the department which provides a wide variety of types of people. Agencies participating are the Office of Public Guardian who primarily work with elderly and disabled adults, Juvenile Justice Services who work with youth within the justice system, Division of Child and Family Services who provide protection and services to children and families due to abuse or neglect and transition to adult living services, Division of Services for People with Disabilities who work with disabled children and adults and their families, and the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Each intern's experience will vary depending on their placement. For example, the intern working in the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health will learn photo shop and other digital software and use those skills to produce a newsletter and other publications, as well as have the opportunity to learn how to become an event planner.

In addition, each week all interns will attend a brown bag lunch that is designed to give the students a better understanding of the department as well as develop their job skills. Some of the topics will include: giving and receiving feedback in the workplace, leadership tips and how the Utah Legislature works and connects to the department by the Executive Director, and a presentation by the First Lady of Utah, Mary Kaye Huntsman on the "Power in You."

This program is a paid internship that runs 10 weeks during the summer with youth working 30 hours per week.

Utah's Youth Vision Team Moves Forward

BY JANE BROADHEAD

The federal Shared Youth Vision Team approved Utah's project application for funding a pilot to expand on the success of TAL for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The Department of Labor will announce funding amounts in early July. The pilot project begins July 1, 2007 and statewide implementation begins July 1, 2008. Utah's Youth Vision Team (YVT) is comprised of representative of following youth-serving agencies:

- Department of Workforce Services (DWS), Workforce Investment Act & Business Sector Strategies, Connie Laws (claws@utah.gov), Jane Broadhead (jbroadh@utah.gov), Lynn Purdin (lpurdin@utah.gov)
- Department of Human Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Jane Lewis (jhlewis@utah.gov)
- Department of Human Services, Juvenile Justice Services (JJS), Ron Harrell (rharrell@utah.gov)
- Utah State Office of Education, Youth in Custody, Travis Cook (Travis.Cook@schools.utah.gov)
- Utah Department of Community and Culture, Division of Housing and Community Development, Lloyd Pendleton (lpendleton@utah.gov)

...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

- Mountainland Consortium of Schools, WIA Youth Provider, Maira Lesa (mlesa@utah.gov)
- Utah State Office of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Lloyd Laws (llaws@utah.gov)

Several team members attended a Shared Youth Vision Dialog meeting in Dallas in June. There were eleven states represented, three who have pilot projects, Utah, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The pilot project states made presentations about their progress and successes. It was very interesting to hear of the other pilot state's initiatives, to talk with other states about their youth service systems, and to continue working on our project.

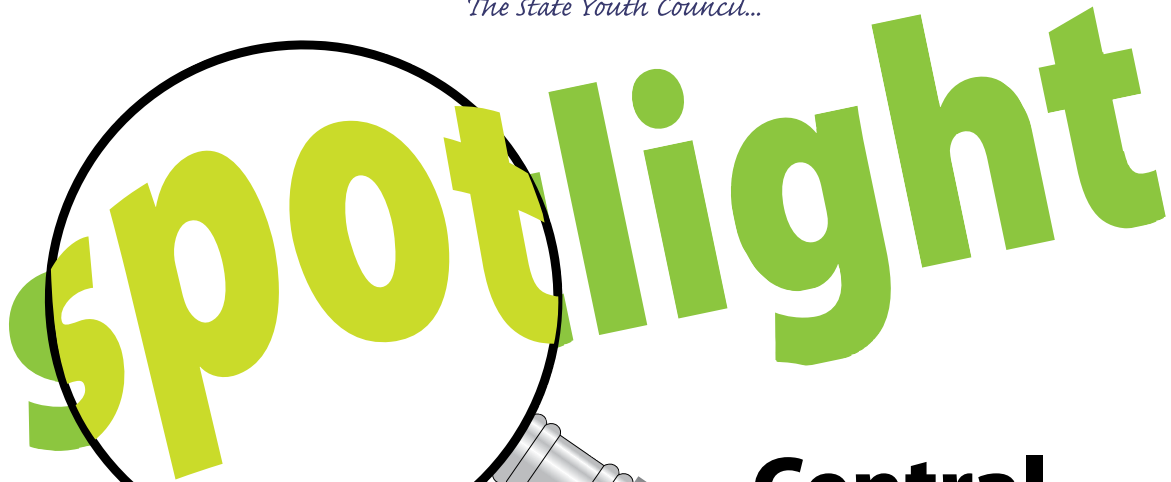
The following list provides an update of decisions we have made:

- Mission: We will enhance the lives of youth we serve by identifying creative solutions to barriers, streamlining services by aligning policies across programs, eliminating duplication and seeking opportunities for collaboration for cost effectiveness, and improving services and outcomes.
- Vision: Utah's at-risk youth live successfully as adults.
- The YVT targets the Decker Lake and Millcreek youth correction facilities for the pilot.
- A goal of the project is to assist secure-care facilities to take a career focused approach so youth exit the system with training and certificates in high-growth industry/occupational sectors.
- The YVT is in the process of gathering base-line data to compare future achievement.

This is an exciting project and the YVT will keep you posted on its progress! Please contact any member of the YVT if you have questions, or would like to comment.



spotlight



Central Region

Ropes Course Construction

Building teamwork can be a tough job – especially when the work is building, literally. Youth EmployAbility Services (YES) participants exercised their minds and muscles to help create a low ropes course for the Salt Lake County Division of Youth Services.

YES Leadership Council members worked hard to plan the project for several months. They wrote the proposal, sought community support, and recruited youth to join the construction efforts. But those successes were only half of the goal. For three sweaty days in May they dug holes, raised posts, cut wood and earned their blisters - all in the name of teamwork.

Early in 2007, the Central Region Youth Council approved the project and a portion of this year's WIA Youth annual leadership project funding was allocated to it. The YES Leadership Council knew they had a big dream. The money they had available was only enough to purchase the huge wooden posts that are used as the obstacle foundations. They still needed more materials, tools, and expertise. Through detailed project management and by leveraging community resources their dream became a reality. Over the next few months many supportive partnerships were formed.

CLAS ROPES, a Provo business specializing in ropes course construction, donated expert services and materials at a significant discount. Youth and community volunteers brought their own tools to the project and many others were borrowed. A generous anonymous donation was made by a local family to cover the remainder of the costs. Youth and staff devoted their Memorial Day weekend to the labor-intensive endeavor. They learned to use shovels, picks, and chisels like old pros before the project was done.

Youth and families now have the opportunity to participate in ropes course recreational therapy through Youth Services. Participants in these dynamic activities can improve their problem solving skills, creative thinking, trust, communication, self-reflection, teamwork, and more. By overcoming physical challenges together and evaluating the results, participants can make progress on issues that are not addressed in traditional therapy. YES youth are looking forward to trying out the ropes course at the Summer Youth Opportunities Program graduation activity on August 3, 2007.

...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

YES' 2007 Summer Youth Opportunities Program

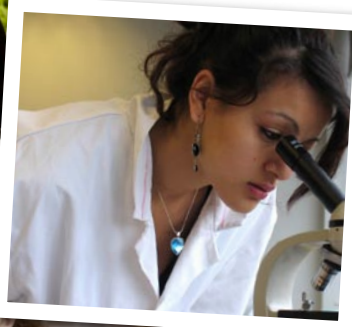
The YES Summer Youth Opportunities Program will be in full swing by the time this newsletter hits the press. This year we are switching gears to maximize the amount of positive outcomes for our program and for our youth. We will be focusing our summer component around short-term occupational training programs that will enable youth to earn an occupational certification, completion of a paid/unpaid internship or externship to gain job skills, and participation in leadership projects and employment workshops, all during the summer! A youth who would normally just get a fast food job during the summer before starting a health career training in the fall will now have the opportunity to participate in a summer program which will put them on the first rung on the job ladder in their career field and get them patient care experience.

We will have summer training opportunities available in Phlebotomy, CNA, Heavy Equipment Operator, Front Office Support, and basic computer skills in Salt Lake, and Phlebotomy, Forklift Driver, and Forestry in Tooele. In the process of participating in these activities, a YES youth will complete the coveted YES certificate program and earn up to \$600 in bonuses

for accomplishing all of their goals over the course of 10 to 16 weeks.

Youth will begin their involvement in this year's SYOP experience with a three day Kick-Off Event. On day one, participants will learn more about the summer component and what to anticipate in the weeks to come; they meet other youth who are taking the same occupational skills training classes, and they will be introduced to the basics of what to expect and what is expected of them when on an internship or externship site. They will also be involved in some activities designed to promote interaction between participants and have lunch. Day two's highlight is a team building activity facilitated by Salt Lake County Youth Division's recreational therapist and several YES staff, and day three's focus is a community service leadership project.

The planning for this summer began in late fall of 2007. Every YES staff member participated in some aspect of making this summer's SYOP a reality. They volunteered to work on committees ranging from outreach and programming to training options and kick-off events. Numerous man-hours have gone into this effort. As of this writing, 24 youth attended the Tooele three-day SYOP kick-off event. The Salt Lake County kick-off event is scheduled for next week. We are hoping to have between 40 and 50 youth participate in the SYOP experience during the months of June through September.



YES and IDL as Partners

The YES Program and the Salt Lake Region DCFS Independent Living (IDL) Team have been working together to ensure all eligible TAL youth receive information regarding ETV funds.

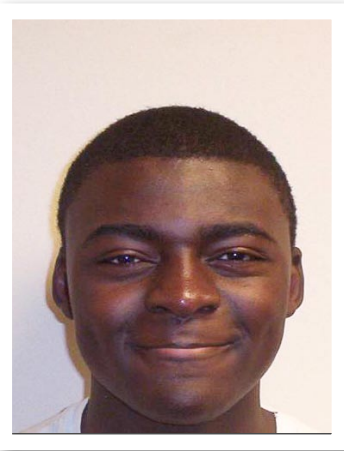
YES' DCFS liaison regularly attends one class during each of the Independent Living class sessions to speak with the youth. Youth also receive information about high growth/ high demand industries at these workshops. This encourages the foster care youth in attendance to consider their career choices

before they enter post-secondary education and the workforce. In addition, the YES coordinates a presentation once a quarter at the IDL office where youth, caseworkers, and foster parents can learn about ETV funds and have their questions answered.

In order to work together better to serve the youth, DCFS has been inviting the YES case managers to their family and team meetings. This allows the youth to see that there is a team of caring adults supporting them working towards their goals. By working together, we are better able to help the youth transition into adulthood.

Outstanding Youth

Jesse I. is a unique young man. He is a refugee from Nigeria and speaks four (that's right, four!)



Jesse I.

languages: Igala, his native language, Hausa, Yoruba and English. Jesse has been in and out of foster care for over three years. When he applied for the Youth EmployAbility Services (YES) program he had dropped out of school, but even while not attending school he understood the importance and need for an education. His first question to his

case manager was where could he go and get a diploma. This was during the assessment phase of our program – Jesse wasn't even formally enrolled in YES yet. About two weeks after joining the YES program he obtained his high school diploma from South Point High School.

Jesse is now attending Salt Lake Community College with his sights set on becoming an airline pilot. He is receiving Employment and Training Voucher (ETV)

funds. Jesse is industrious and very personable. He has always maintained at least one job and has had up to three at one time. He is currently exploring the possibility of being an entrepreneur and starting his own small business to help pay for his schooling. This young man has come from a background where most people would not survive and has embraced his opportunities with gusto.

Jessie best expressed his values in an essay he wrote for Martin Luther King Day:

"Hi my name is Jesse, and I believe that with hard work, determination and a little faith anything is possible. I believe that change occurs for a reason. I believe that we all have a purpose in this life. I believe that your future is a whole string of nows. Life puts us in various situations and circumstances that challenge our ability to do what is necessary, what is ethically right. I grew up in a very brutal society where the punishment for a crime is gory. For example; stealing is punished by decapitation of your hand." He goes on to say, "I stand for morally accurate truth".

Jesse has accomplished much in his short time with the YES program and has set lofty goals for himself. With Jesse's 'hard work, determination and [a little] faith', the staff of the YES program feel, like his chosen career path, Jesse will soar with the eagles.

Chelsey S. is an individual who strongly believes in making a difference in the community. She actively looks for opportunities to serve and develop her leadership skills. Chelsey has been in and out of foster care throughout her life and has chosen to learn and grow



Chelsey S.

...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

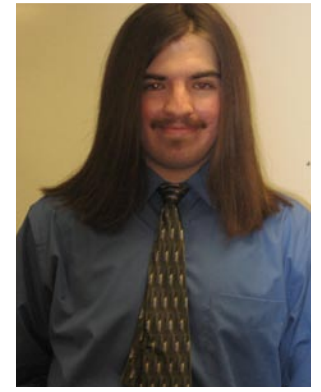
from the obstacles she faced growing up. Chelsey attended Granite High School and graduated June 2005. While in high school she was involved in many clubs. She was the service project manager for Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), service project chair for the Leadership Council, member of DECA, co-president of the debate team, president of the Academy of Travel and Tourism, and the senior editor of the school newspaper. The YES program is assisting Chelsey with her occupational skills training. She is currently attending the University of Utah pursuing a teaching degree as an elementary teacher.

Chelsey is also going to participate in the Summer Youth Opportunities Program (SYOP) with YES and will complete the computer software training with the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College. As a participant in the SYOP she will also complete an internship in the YES office where she will assist in the creation of flyers, excel spreadsheets, power points, and newsletters. Chelsey is involved with the leadership component of the YES program and is currently serving as secretary of the YES Leadership Council. Part of her duties as secretary includes attending leadership meetings while organizing and attending service projects. Since January 2007, she has completed 48 hours of leadership with the YES program.

Chelsey also serves as a council member on the Salt Lake County Youth Government commission in order to discuss and provide information on the transition from being a teen to an adult and issues regarding affordable housing. The Youth Government Commission nominated Chelsey to participate in the Global International conference that was held at the University of Utah on June 15-17. As a participant of this conference Chelsey was able to meet individuals throughout the world in order to discuss how to change government at the local level. Chelsey is dedicated to improving her life through service and education and she works hard at achieving her personal and life goals.

How does one describe a youth who, after overcoming numerous personal obstacles, chooses to travel down

the road of self-discovery and in the process discovers a strong sense of personal self worth? **Antonio D.** is such a young man. This June, Antonio spoke at his graduation ceremony from Granite Peaks High School. He describes his personal struggles in his own words. "In life, I have struggled to find a place in which I belong. I have seen the worst—I have experienced it. But past the inescapable trepidation and hopelessness, the greatest amount of prosperity is imminent. Through treacherous battle zones I have fought to achieve what I have, for in the beginning there was always a glimmer of hope. "

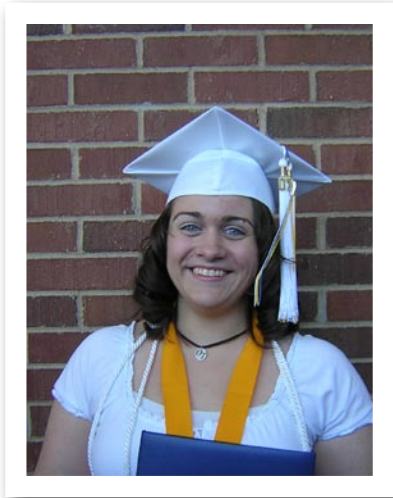


Antonio D..

And what has Antonio achieved? This past year, Antonio earned his GED and then went on to obtain his diploma. He was appointed by Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon to serve as a voting member of the 2007 Social Service Block Grant Subcommittee, which was charged with reviewing grant proposals and awarding funding for successful community after-school programs. He served as the leader of the month for February 2007 for this committee. Antonio participated in the 2007 Utah Law Day Essay Contest and was awarded first place. He has obtained a job working with youth for the summer. Lastly, this fall, Antonio will start his college career.

Antonio's accomplishments in the last 12 months are considerable, but he acknowledged that he did not do this without help of others. Quoting from his commencement speech once more, " ... throughout the course of my life, with the support of teachers, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Utah, the YES program, mentors, family and friends, I found each obstacle easier to conquer". YES congratulates Antonio on all he has accomplished and looks forward to hearing about the remarkable things we anticipate he will achieve in the not too distant future.

Francais A. is a young lady who understands the value of working hard to achieve success. The past year Francais has been a senior attending Taylorsville High School. During her senior year



Francais A.

Francais participated in the Madrigals and Concert Choir. Because of her love of music and dedication to the craft she was also able to participate in Honors Choir and Allstate Choir. Francais has consistently earned a 3.8 GPA or higher for the past three quarters at Taylorsville High.

Francais graduated with her class on Friday, June 1, 2007 with a Diploma of Merit in English and Citizenship. She also graduated with Honors in Citizenship. During the past year, Francais has been involved with the YES Leadership Council and is now serving as the vice president of the Council. As vice president she has assisted in organizing leadership and service projects, recruitment of volunteers, and assisted in writing grants for the YES leadership program. Francais has also served as a member of the Youth Government Commission with Salt Lake County in order to address and problem solve the transition to adulthood that teens face and the lack of affordable housing. Since October 2006, Francais has performed 130 hours of leadership and community service.

A participant in YES' Summer Youth Opportunities Program (SYOP), Francais will also complete the front office support training with Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College and an internship with the Governor's office. She plans on attending the LDS Business College fall semester in order to pursue her

Associate's Degree in Accounting. Francais has been awarded four scholarships in order to assist with her Associate's Degree. She was awarded the following scholarships: LDS Business College- Freshman Scholarship for Excellence; Zonta Club Scholarship; ChamberWest Business Scholarship; and Sons of Utah Pioneers – "Tomorrow's Pioneer" Scholarship.

Francais is dedicated to improving herself, her life and her future. Francais states in her own words from the 2007 YES Credo Contest, "I would have to say that one thing that has gotten me where I am today is constantly working to improve myself, my position in life, and my options for the future. My life has been anything but easy and that is precisely why I am still working; I know that it will take me anywhere that I aspire to go."

Beda A. and Eman A. are sisters involved in the YES program who understand the importance of education and its relation to self-sufficiency. Beda's and Eman's family are originally from Iraq and came to the United States in 1996 as refugees. They are also the two oldest children of 10 siblings. Being the oldest in the family, they have a lot of responsibility helping their parents with their younger siblings. They want to obtain careers that not only help those people in their community but will also help their family.

Eman is currently a student at Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and has attended two semesters at SLCC. She has already earned a total of 43 credits towards an associate's degree in pre-medicine. Her associate's degree will allow for her to gain employment as a biological technician. Eman's long-term goal is to become an OB/GYN in order to assist those women who don't have access to affordable and quality medical care.

Beda has completed the Pharmacy Technician program at the Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College. She is also a current student at SLCC and is working on her pre-requisites to transfer to the University of Utah to pursue a career as a pharmacist. She has completed 36 credits at SLCC.

...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

In order to enrich their experience at SLCC and to get involved in the community, both girls are currently serving as senators in the college's Student Government. Their duties as senators include talking with fellow students and finding out what their concerns are about the school and what sort of changes they would like to see happen. Beda and Eman then take their concerns to the Student Government meetings and are involved in the process of changing and making new rules to better serve

students at SLCC. They have realized that getting involved gives them a voice in changing things for the better.

Because of their involvement in Student Government, they have qualified for scholarships and have been able to share their culture and history with fellow students. Beda and Eman will continue serving in Student Government next year and will also graduate with their associate's degrees.

**The tassel's
worth the
hassle!**

—Author Unknown

Region Updates

Western Region

Western Region began last October in planning a series of events for the youth. We wanted to have something exciting for youth during the winter months as well as recruit new youth for the program. We felt this event would keep them engaged and excited about the program and we would be able to enroll more youth into our program. It was a lot of planning and a lot of work so we didn't get it done until May and June of this year. It was a blast! Now that we have the experience, we hope to have this event each year in January and February.

The months leading up to the Reality Store were very busy in getting support and advertising the events. We discussed it with the Western Region Youth Council and they gave us ideas and helped us in the planning. Our WIA Youth workers attended Chamber of Commerce meetings, LIC meetings, and visiting with schools in all counties of the region. At these meetings, they had

an employer who had provided internships and a youth who was on the program talk to the group about their experiences. They explained the WIA Youth program in the hopes that someone would know a youth who needed the program and would refer them to us.

The youth workers also talked with other agencies such as Juvenile Justice, DCFS, the Indian Tribes, etc. We were also asking these community organizations to volunteer to help us with the event. We worked closely with the currently enrolled WIA youth in the planning and execution of the Reality Store. Those who participated learned leadership skills and received a t-shirt as well as a cash incentive.

We conducted a Reality Store (created by the Business and Professional Women of Indiana) in six areas in our region: Delta, Richfield, Manti, St. George, Cedar City and Kanab. The Reality Store exposes youth to the responsibilities of adult living. During the two-hour simulation, each youth set out with an assigned occupation, yearly and monthly net income, and level of education, age, and family status; some single, others married with large families and some with no children. Some youth had high paying jobs and a college education while others did not finish high school and earned less than \$1,000 per month. The youth visited each station to purchase a home, health and life insurance, a vehicle, childcare, clothing, groceries, entertainment and travel, etc. The youth maintained a checkbook deducting their expenses from their salary for the necessities and luxuries of their adult lifestyle.



Reality Store participants.



Region Updates

We got volunteers from the various businesses to operate the booths. When the youth went to the transportation booth to purchase a car for their pretend family, they actually talked to a car salesman. When they went to buy groceries, they talked with a person from a grocery store who had examples of cheap, medium or expensive meals. There was also a "Finger of Fate" booth where the youth had to draw a number and the corresponding number told them what happened in their life. Some won a lottery and received extra money while some blew a tire or had another child, which created more expenses for the month. There was even a local policeman walking around giving tickets for loitering, speeding, interfering with justice, etc. The youth had to go to the legal booth to take care of the fine. Several youth appeared at the "Financial Counseling" booth trying to figure out their budget, how to get a cheaper house, how to get rid of a pet they couldn't afford, or even get a second job.

These were very exciting events with good attendance. We invited all youth in the areas in hopes that they would be interested and become enrolled in the WIA Youth Program. In Delta there were 133 youth and 31 volunteers; Richfield had 93 youth and 23 volunteers, Manti had 39 youth and 28 volunteers, St. George had 49 youth and 45 volunteers, Cedar City had 39 youth and 27 volunteers, Kanab had 15 youth and 20 volunteers. At the end of the experience we discussed what they learned and how important education is to a career and getting higher pay. Each youth received a red shoulder tote with Youth Program written on the outside. Inside was a water bottle, pen, notepad, calculator and various brochures

about youth services and the justforyouth website. The news media attended and wrote very nice articles in the local papers. We had the youth complete an evaluation at the end of the day. Some had good suggestions on how we could make it better. Most of them said they learned something and they really enjoyed it. When we asked what we could improve, some wanted real money to work with, more food, candy, music, and a nap. We felt it was a very good event and we have already had a big surge in the interest in our program. We have had approximately 20 youth contact the local offices interested in participating.

The Summer Youth Employment Opportunity program is underway in Western Region. We currently have 28 youth on an internship this summer with more pending. Because this is the beginning of the summer, we are still enrolling youth for this experience so our numbers will go higher. We have had success in the past with our summer program as the employer hires some youth when the internship is finished. This is also the case with some of the youth we have had on a year-round internship.

Outstanding Youth

Ashley is a vivacious and lovely girl to be around and is liked by everyone who knows her. She lives with her mother, one brother and one sister. Ashley has been part of the WIA youth program for three years, starting when she was in her freshman year in high school. Ashley is a very energetic person and with that energy she completed Juab High School



Ashley

Region Updates

Western Cont.

one year ahead of schedule, while being involved in academics, sports and the drill team. She also received her CNA during this time. Her first summer with us she worked in the library for Nephi City, the second year she worked at the city pool and the police station. This summer she is working for Nephi City's pool and at the Central Valley Medical Center as a CNA.

Ashley has signed up to attend the Intermountain Healthcare Health Careers Summer Camp to be held in Salt Lake in June. She has decided that a career in the medical field is what she wants to pursue. She will be attending UVU in the fall and her goal is to go into pediatrics, which will take her approximately six years to complete. She loves to help people and enjoys working with those that are sick and need her help, especially children.

Everyone needs to have an Ashley in his or her life. She is a special person and will be missed in the Nephi area.

pancakes. There were about 150 community members that attended the story hour and enjoyed plenty of pancakes. It was a great opportunity for the youth to be involved in programs like story hour. By participating in such an event our WIA youth learned valuable work- related skills and the importance of literacy while getting them involved in the community at the same time.

They spent one evening cleaning the library to help prepare for the story hour, washing shelves, cleaning books, dusting furniture, and shining computers. The library was sparkling by the time they were through.

They also assisted with the roadside clean up project on Highway 40, which was a community project. Youth and employees wore orange vests and picked up all kinds of garbage along the road, making the highways more beautiful. Thanks to a community effort you can now enjoy the natural beauty of the countryside as you travel along Highway 40.

Eastern Region

Roosevelt Youth Leadership Development and Citizenship Project

The Roosevelt Office and the WIA Youth helped kick off National Library Week by hosting a special story hour at the Duchesne County Library. This story hour celebrated the picture book "If you Give a Pig a Pancake" by Laura Numeroff. The youth and staff took part in the story hour by reading to the children and cooking and serving

Andrea B. was referred to DWS by the Transition to Adult Living program, and was co-enrolled in the ETV and WIA youth programs in the fall of 2006. Andrea is an awesome student that knows how to hit the books! When Andrea first came to her employment counselor's office she expressed an interest in becoming a Pharmacy Technician, and completion of the "choices" program showed it would be a good match for her. Her employment counselor was impressed that she had done her homework



Region Updates

and knew what she wanted to accomplish before their first appointment. Andrea enrolled at Provo College in their Pharmacy Technician program in the fall of 2006 and will be completing her third semester shortly. Andrea has juggled working at Walmart, school studies and having a baby this spring, and still accumulated a GPA of 3.9. She will be doing her externship in July at the Monticello Pharmacy 53 miles south of Moab in beautiful San Juan County. Upon completion of her externship she will seek employment in the Pharmacy Technician field. Way to go Andrea!

Northern Region

Bear River

Things have been busy in the Bear River area. Our leadership project was a huge success!! On Saturday, April 28, youth from Logan and Brigham City met at DWS to have a morning full of fun, food and service. This year our annual Leadership project was putting together care packages for our soldiers in Iraq. Incredibly we had a showing of 19 WIA Youth participants, plus two wonderful guest speakers, and four DWS staff, Vicki Fenton, Brent Welsh, Heidi Lemon and Julie Anderson.

First off was our guest speaker, Lonny Cutler, a veteran of the Vietnam War. He spoke to the youth about how times have changed and how as soldiers overseas they would have loved to receive care packages from home during their service years. He shared a few stories of things that happened to him and to fellow soldiers. He also shared pictures taken during his time in Vietnam, the landscape, and the gear they wore and carried back

then. He talked to the kids about the cost and sacrifice of war, and of loyalty to fellow soldiers and friends, life and country.

Our last guest speaker was Michael Easley, who recently completed a tour of duty in Iraq and will be returning for a second tour this summer. He spoke of the climate and culture of Iraq, the duties he conducted during his service, and the people of Iraq. He also emphasized how much soldiers appreciate a care package from home. He expressed that it can make all the difference, especially on a bad day. After answering a few questions from the youth he tied it up by expressing his feelings of how important it is to have an educated opinion on things, and to not be easily swayed by the media, one book, or only what others say. He feels that is one of our greatest freedoms, the ability to be educated and form our own opinions and ideas.

The youth thanked our speakers and presented them with a thank you gift and a card that each of the youth had signed. We then broke for lunch and enjoyed pizza, drinks and cookies.

After lunch we gathered around tables to prepare the care kits. The kits included licorice, hard candy, gum, magazines, playing cards, dice, Utah calendars, etc. Each office did it a little differently but all had great results. Certain soldiers had been identified and the packages assigned to one of them. In all we were able to create and send 20 packages! Each kit also included a card that had been designed by one of the youth participants.



Region Updates

The project went great and we were so pleased with our turn out. We took plenty of pictures and each of the youth was given a commemorative t-shirt to remind them of the project.

Successful Youth

Sarai entered the youth program in Logan in April of this year. She was attending Stevens Henager College in Computer Programming and needed help with some school assistance as well as taking advantage of our internship opportunities. Sarai really wanted to get experience in the field she is studying, and she even took the initiative to develop two potential employers for her internship



Sarai

opportunity, deciding on United Computers because of the more extensive learning opportunities they offer. She has completed her first 30 days with them and has been doing very well. They report that they have been impressed with her professionalism in dress, appearance, and strides to learn. They have developed a contract with her that they will hire her after 90 days if her performance remains successful! We are very pleased with her participation and initiative!

Hector was enrolled in the program in November 2006 as a 19-year-old out-of-school youth with domestic violence and basic skills deficiency barriers. He has a desire to work with troubled youth because of his own past experiences that included spending time in youth detention. He is currently working

to resolve some legal issues from his past so that he can pursue his goal of becoming a youth counselor. In the meantime, he is working to increase his occupational skills by participating in a paid internship at the local DWS office. He is learning new customer service and computer skills. He was also able to assist with a job fair as well as completing a financial and budgeting workshop.

The 2006-2007 WIA Leadership Development Project involved refurbishing the Historic 25th Street Municipal Park. There were 25 WIA students involved in the planning process that began January 19, 2007. The students were involved in every step from committee planning to commencement on May 12, 2007. The students worked on networking, teamwork and effective communication. Due to the efforts of the students and staff the amount of donations was larger than expected. They were able to secure donations from Manpower, Macey 's, Frito Lay, Loft House, Ogden City, American Monument, John Nicholas with the Ogden Amphitheater, McDonalds and 26th St. Kwik Stop. Clearfield Job Corps. partnered with Futures Through Training, Inc. to help with the culinary portion and was able to have two bands to perform at the barbeque. Without the sponsorship and the partnerships, this year 's project would not have been a success.

Futures Through Training, Inc. had 40 WIA students involved in the final day of the event. The students partnered with Clearfield Job Corps and Ogden City to plant flowers, two maple trees, and they re-laid fresh bark in the playground. The students were able to plant

Region Updates

200 out of the 300 flats of flowers that were available to plant.

After the project there was a barbeque to celebrate the student's hard work in planning and completing this event.

Mountainland Region

It has been reported that there are 250,000 available WIA slots for out-of-school youth in the United States. It has also been reported that there are 5,000,000 youth to fill these slots. So, as a state, the big question we have been asking is where are the youth?

Over the past several months, the Mountainland region has been focused on marketing our program to increase our number of enrollments. Our conclusion was that either the youth do not know about us or they are not convinced we are the right program for them. We have made it a goal to gain understanding of the youth's perspective that we might be more effective in our marketing.

We have so far advertised through a couple of different mediums. We have tried our local newspaper, school newspapers, UTA buses, and a billboard on I-15. We are still tracking our responses from the public. Throughout the next six months, we will be making adjustments in our message and trying different mediums through which we can advertise so that we might increase enrollments. As we do so, we will continue tracking our responses from the public to narrow down what works best and hopefully establish some best practices that can be shared throughout the state.

Natalieh G. has been enrolled in WIA since March 2006. She is a single parent to two children ages two and one. When Natalieh first contacted WIA she had not completed high school and was expecting her second child. She had a desire to improve life for herself and her children and had several goals in mind when she met with an employment counselor.

During her time with the WIA program Natalieh has been very proactive. She has been attained her GED on her first attempt and is currently enrolled in the surgical technician program at Ameritech. All progress reports highlight her superior attendance and her commitment to her studies. Natalieh has also expressed an interest in furthering her education after she completes the program at Ameritech. She is currently engaged in an externship to improve her skills at Timpanogos Regional Hospital.



Natalieh G.

With the help of her employment counselor, Natalieh was also able to utilize the services offered to jobseekers at DWS. With her newly acquired skills, she will be able to go and find employment in the healthcare industry. Natalieh is excited to begin a new chapter in her life. The responsibility she demonstrates will benefit her wherever she goes.

Prosperity....

is not without many fears and distastes,
and adversity is not without comforts and hopes.

—Francis Bacon



***The State Youth Council meets as part of the State Council
on a quarterly basis.***

***The next meeting will be held
in October 2007.***

Contact Information

If you have suggestions or comments for the newsletter, please contact Julie Lay at jlay@utah.gov. If you have questions regarding the State Youth Council, please contact Jane Broadhead at jbroadh@utah.gov or go to our Web page at jobs.utah.gov and select State Council/State Youth Council.

If you have questions regarding youth services or youth programs, please contact the Youth Specialist in your area:

Northern: Julie Anderson, julieanderson@utah.gov
Mountainland: Zenaida Martinez, zmartinez@utah.gov
Central: Rod Barlow, rbarlow@utah.gov

Western: Ann Barnson, abarso@utah.gov
Eastern: Tami Huntington, thunting@utah.gov

If you have questions regarding Regional Youth Councils in your area or your Regional Council, please contact the Regional Council Coordinator in your area:

Northern: Susan Wright, susanwright@utah.gov
Mountainland: Julie Lay, jlay@utah.gov
Central: Cassy Hahn, chahn@utah.gov
Eastern: Bob Gilbert, bobgilbert@utah.gov
Western: Lorrie Economy, leconomy@utah.gov

***Proud Member of America's Workforce Network
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program***

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.

